



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

should be preceded by an understanding of some of the principles and an acquaintance with some of the facts.

Our methods, while containing much that is admirable, have never grown beyond the stage of infancy. What was done of necessity years ago in the effort to provide better nursing in hospitals is now continued partly as a measure of economy, and partly through indolent adherence to a custom which saves us the trouble of thinking.

To lengthen courses of instruction and increase the number of subjects taught, or to show long and elaborate schedules of lectures, does not necessarily mean that we are thereby greatly advancing in the education of nurses. It is equally important that there shall be a wise division of theory and practice, and such an arrangement of each that practical work shall in all instances be preceded by previous study.

A system whereby the pupil is prepared to some extent for the practical side of her work by previous study and preparation is founded on a rational basis, and it is in this direction that the writer believes the greatest improvement will come about in the teaching of nurses. This method may for us have the stamp of novelty, but it is in accordance with existing methods in every other branch of education, every art, trade, or profession. Is it not time to bring methods of teaching nurses in training-schools into harmony with those employed in other branches of education?

---

## PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR NURSES

By ANNIE M. SHIELS

Directress of Nurses, State Hospital, Hazleton, Pennsylvania

THE State Hospital at Hazleton, Pennsylvania, opened a Preparatory Training-School for nurses in 1893. The hospital was built to take care of the injured of the Middle Coal Fields of Pennsylvania. In order to admit a patient there has to be a history of an injury of some kind; that being the rule, all medical cases are excluded. The rules also exclude women; occasionally there is one admitted who can be accommodated in the one private room at the hospital, but not sufficient in number to afford proper training for the nurses.

The course of training in the Preparatory School is one year, after which time the pupils are expected to enter a general school for nurses to finish their training. The greatest difficulty was to find pupils with the necessary efficiency and ability. At first there was not any arrangement made with other hospitals to accept the pupils after their year was

completed, and it proved to be a difficult matter to have them received by other good schools.

Some schools had not any vacancies; some objected to taking pupils that had been in another school; some ignored the application altogether, so that it became very evident that another arrangement was necessary. The establishment of a general training-school giving a course of two years was fully discussed. The second year the pupils were to do private nursing in order to secure surgical, medical, and obstetrical experience in nursing women. At the end of that time they were to receive diplomas entitling them to take their place in the world as trained nurses; but, fortunately, the majority of trustees decided against this plan. Instead, the chief surgeon and superintendent were asked to communicate with training-schools in New York and Philadelphia, and endeavor to make arrangements with one or more of them to accept the pupils. This has resulted most satisfactorily, and three first-class schools have agreed to each accept two pupils from here every year, and in addition have promised if possible to send probationers if they have suitable applicants who would care to take this course. The surgical training here is large and varied: major amputations and trephines average two per month; laparotomies, one per month; other major and minor operations are more numerous, and the dispensary has an average of fifteen to twenty cases dressed each day. The nurses, under supervision of the directress, have charge of the two male surgical wards, the dispensary, and operating-room; they make all bandages, learn to prepare dressings, sutures, drainage-tubing, iodoform gauze, and make solutions. There are classes held from October to June in practical nursing and anatomy, besides lectures by the surgeon-in-chief on subjects pertaining to their work. The work is most interesting, but also most trying, and the nurse who bravely faces and does her duty towards the grimy, mangled miners of the field, most of them Hungarians, Poles, and Italians, will not be likely to shirk any duty that may be expected of her in whatever sphere she may be placed. Graduates of other schools whose surgical training has been deficient, perhaps from lack of acute cases, would be accepted here on the same terms as the other pupils. The aim is to have the hospital receive the best service, in return for which a good surgical training is acquired. At the end of the year, if the pupils have satisfactorily performed their duty and passed all examinations, a certificate is given indorsed by the trustees, surgeon-in-chief, and directress.

[“Preparatory School for Nurses” is an encouraging title to see heading the brief paper that sets forth the attempt that the authorities

of one small specialty hospital have made to provide adequate training for their nurses. Where one leads, others will follow, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the interchange of pupils between the large general schools and the small specialty hospitals will rapidly grow to be the rule; but the still better plan would seem to be the one advocated for some years past, to have the large general schools accept all probationers and to arrange with one or more varieties of small specialty hospitals to furnish them with the required number of pupil-nurses for stated periods, during that time the pupil to receive a thorough training in the particular branch of medicine or surgery that the small hospital represents, under a capable superintendent and efficient teacher and in accordance with a prescribed curriculum.—Ed.]

---

### **ADULTERATION OF FOOD IN SWITZERLAND**

A COMMUNICATION to the State Department from the American Consul, M. De Boise, at St. Gall, Switzerland, declares the adulteration of food general in Europe, and in Switzerland legislation has had to be made against it. The chocolate, the consumption of which the slot machines have increased, is adulterated with mutton-tallow, sawdust, and potato meal. The chief ingredients of honey are syrup, meal, and corn-starch; Swiss cheese is mixed with potatoes ground to a powder; butter is adulterated with carrot juice. Bread, which furnishes seventy per cent. of the nourishment of the people of the Swiss Republic, is mixed with potato meal, and the dough is soaked heavily with water to add to the weight of each loaf. With coffee, tanbark, sawdust, stove rust, and chicory are mixed; and as adulterants for tea, linden, sage, and strawberry-leaves are used. It is proved by analysis that in beer the following ingredients are added as substitutes for malt and hops: potash, vitriol of iron, alum, licorice, linseed, solution of tartar, poppy heads, guinea grains, chamomile, pine sprouts, chicory, henbane, and wild cherries. Some of the wine which is freely consumed, he declares, has never contained a drop of grape juice, since potato syrup dissolved in rain water makes a salable beverage, and the desired color and bouquet are obtained by mixing wine acids with cream of tartar.